**Trial run for Shamshabad International Airport**

468. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had udnertaken trial run at Shamshabad International Airport in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new airport takes nearly 2 hours journey from the heart of the city which is also equivalent to go to Delhi in 2 hours;

(d) the rationale behind such decision to run the domestic airlines without saving time of the passengers;

(e) whether Government has received any proposals to run the domestic airlines from the Begumpet and International Airlines from the Shamshabad to save the time of the passengers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Trial run of two proving flights, as authorized by Directorate General for Civil Aviation was conducted on12-2-2008.

(c) and (d) The State Government has initiated various connectivity projects to enhance city connectivity with the new international airport at Shamshabad, near Hyderabad. On completion of these projects, the average time for any passenger from any farthest point of the city to reach the new international airport will be about 45 minutes.

(e) and (f) As per the Concession Agreement signed by Government of India (GOI) with the developers of the new international airport, closure of the existing airport at Begumpet Airport is one of the obligations of GOI.

**Withdrawal of Air Services in Dammam-Delhi-Damman Sector**

469. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the difficulties being faced by the persons of Northern India working in Damman (Saudi Arabia) due to withdrawal of direct Air India Flight from Damman-Delhi-Dammam Sector;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the withdrawal of this most popular and most used flight;

(c) whether it will be resumed; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The once a week Delhi-Dammam flight was withdrawan during the year 2007 as it was experiencing low seat factors. However, Air India currently carries Delhi-Dammam passengers over Mumbai twice a week;

(c) and (d) The resumption of flight will depend upon availability of capacity and commercial viability of the operation.